

**REMARKS**

Claim 13 has been canceled, claims 10-12 amended to replace "Claim" with "claim", and claim 11 further amended to correct an error in syntax, in order to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter.

The amendments are proposed pursuant to Rule 116 to place the application fully in condition for allowance or to place the application in better form for appeal. Entry of the proposed amendments, which will not require a new search or consideration of new issues is respectfully requested. The amendments do not raise substantive issues that were not previously considered by the Examiner.

Claims 7 and 9-12 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have canceled claim 13.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 7, 9-12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 6,219,912 (Shimizu et al.). Claim 13 has been canceled. Applicants most respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully wish to direct the Examiner's attention to MPEP § 2131 which states that to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as

is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim, but this is not an *ipsissimis verbis* test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed.Cir. 1990).

The Examiner indicated that Shimizu et al. discloses the process of including a strip 100 having a plurality of substrate areas, providing a plurality of alignment marks 18a (Fig. 3A), providing a plurality of cutting marks 2 (Fig. 3A), positioning the saw machine with respect to the substrate area, cutting each individual substrate areas (Fig. 1A). Applicant most respectfully disagrees.

In the reference to Shimizu et al., reference character 100 refers to the main board, reference numeral 18a refers to the positioning signs, and reference numeral 2 refers to cut lines. Although the main board 100 of Shimizu et al. is provided with a plurality of circuit boards, the main board 100 shown in the drawings of Shimizu et al. is not a substrate strip which has a plurality of substrate areas positioned along a longitudinal line, unlike the claimed subject matter. Further, the cut lines 2 of Shimizu et al. are determined by a plurality of rectangular signs or pairs 18 (or 18a), wherein the cut line 2 extends between the pairs 18 (as shown in Fig. 1(A)), and the two rectangular pairs 18 determine the position to each cut line 2 in cooperation (column 13, lines 19-22) that are different from the cutting marks 112 of the claimed invention. In contrast, in the claimed invention, the cutting marks 112 are used to define the cutting tracks 101 in relation to the longitudinal axis of the substrate strip 100.

Of particular note is the fact that there is no equivalent to the alignment marks 111 of the claimed invention in the reference to Shimizu et al. The alignment marks 111 of the claimed invention are positioned around each individual substrate areas 110 (shown at the corners of each substrate area in Figures 2 and 3). Unlike the prior art, in the claimed invention, the alignment marks 111 of individual substrate areas 110 are utilized by a cutting machine to be positioned relative to the particular substrate area

110 in order to initiate the cutting process for each of the substrate areas 110, in sequential order. There simply is no equivalent process that is taught in the reference to Shimizu et al. Applicants most respectfully challenges the Examiner to provide the existence of such teaching in Shimizu et al. (by specific citation; column and line numbering).

An important feature of the claimed invention is to re-position the saw machine with respect to an adjacent one of the substrate areas for cutting the substrate strip, by aligning the saw machine via the alignment marks 111 of adjacent substrate areas 110, thereby eliminating the accumulation of the cutting errors of the prior art. This particular feature of the claimed invention is not taught, disclosed or suggested in the reference to Shimizu et al. In view of the remarks above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the remarks above.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. in view of U.S. 6,047,470 (Drussel et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner cited the reference to Drussel et al. for the sole purpose of teaching juxtaposing two substrate strips for simultaneous cutting. Applicants respectfully submits that even if one were to modify the base reference to Shimizu et al. according to Drussel et al., the resulting device can not teach all of the limitations of independent claim 7, from which claim 12 depends from, as discussed above with regard to the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is most respectfully requested.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art individually or collectively shows the invention as claimed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of

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the claims appears to be warranted and the same is respectfully requested. In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicants' Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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